GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1598
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Percentage of Forest Cover
Sharma Shri Ram Swaroop

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of forest cover in the country; and
(b) the percentage of expansion in forest cover in the Himalayan region States during the last ten years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the total forest cover of the country is 7, 01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. Further, the tree cover outside forest of the country is estimated to be 92,572 square kilometers which is 2.82% of the total geographical area of the country. The total forest and tree cover outside forest of the country as per India State of Forest Report-2015 is 7,94,245 square kilometers which is 24.16% of the geographical area of the country.

(b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun a subordinate organization under Ministry of
Environment, Forest and Climate Change carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. The percentage of increase/decrease in forest covers in the Himalayan Region States, State-wise by comparing State of Forest Report - 2005 and India State of Forest Report-2015 is given in Annexure.

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